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REMARKS

I. The Prior Art Rejections

Claims 8, 11-15, 17-23, and 26-29, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. '103(a) as being unpatentable over Lantrip et al., hereinafter "Lantrip" (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,174) in view of Ruocco et al., hereinafter "Ruocco" (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,855). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

A. The Rejection Based on Lantrip in view of Ruocco

The Office argues that the combination of Ruocco and Lantrip teaches clustering that is based on prior categorization efforts. However, Applicant notes that neither reference teaches that the "second dataset has a similar, based on said centroid seeds, clustering to that of said first dataset" as defined by independent claims 8, 15, 20, and 23. As discussed previously, Lantrip is only concerned with the formation of a single dataset. Ruocco clusters documents into a single dataset in a process that simultaneously compares a new document that is being added to the dataset with previously established clustering centroids to evaluate in which previously established cluster the new document should be added. While Ruocco uses the previously established clustering centroids when adding the new document to the previous clusters, Ruocco does not cluster "a new, but related dataset different than said first dataset" using the previously established clustering centroids as defined by independent claims 8, 15, 20, and 23. Instead, Ruocco merely enlarges the previous dataset and does not cluster a new dataset that is different from the previous dataset.

The clustering described in Ruocco keeps all the old legacy clusters around, even if they are no longer relevant. The claimed method starts with the old cluster definitions (the centroids generated from the first data set), but lets those centroids shift immediately to fit the data in the

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second data set, ignoring completely any data in the first data set, thereby allowing old concepts to disappear and completely new ones to emerge more readily.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the applied prior art references do not teach or suggest that the "second dataset has a similar, based on said centroid seeds, clustering to that of said first dataset" as defined by independent claims 8, 15, 20, and 23.

The claimed invention solves the problem of finding new categories in a second data set that did not exist in the first data set, while at the same time maintaining as nearly as possible categories from the first data set as categories in the second data set. With the claimed invention, there is no requirement, and in fact it is not assumed, that the first and second data sets have any of the same data elements in them. They are allowed to have some of the same elements, but this is in no way a requirement for the claimed invention. The claimed invention is designed in such a way as to find the similarities between the two data sets, where they exist, while at the same time finding the key differences (emerging concepts) in the second data set.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the applied prior art references do not teach or suggest that the "second dataset has a similar, based on said centroid seeds, clustering to that of said first dataset" as defined by independent claims 8, 15, 20, and 23. Therefore, independent claims 8, 15, 20, and 23 are patentable over the applied prior art references. Further, dependent claims 11-14, 17-19, 21, 22, and 26-29 are similarly patentable, not only by virtue of their dependency from a patentable claim, but also by virtue of the additional features of the invention they define. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

II. Formal Matters and Conclusion

As discussed with the Examiner, and consistent with the Amendment filed April 19, 2005, the claims have been further amended to place the application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to

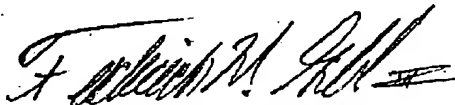
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discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit
Account Number 09-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/24/05



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